

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12463 040531Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 TRSE-00 EB-08

OMB-01 /106 W

-----101168 040539Z /16

R 030900Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5855

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, RH, IN

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO GOI

REF: STATE 210177

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY SHANKAR INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 3 THAT THE PM WANTED HIM TO KNOW THAT ON SEPTEMBER 2 HE SENT MESSAGES TO KAUNDA AND NYERERE STATING THAT HE SUPPORTED THE BRITISH/US PROPOSALS ON RHODESIA AND THAT HE HOPED THEY WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO DO SO.

2. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HERE HAS INFORMED US OF THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HMG AND THE GOI ON RHODESIA. IN MID AUGUST BRITISH PM CALLAGHAN ADDRESSED THE SAME LETTER TO INDIAN PM DESAI WHICH HE SENT TO THE OTHER COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. DESAI'S REPLY, RECEIVED BY THE BRITISH LAST WEEK, WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE AND INDICATED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO LEARNING MORE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL ON
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 12463 040531Z

RHODESIA. ON SEPTEMBER 1, THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER PRESENTED PM DESAI A COPY OF THEIR WHITE PAPER TO WHICH THE PM REACTED VERY FAVORABLY. HE SAID THAT INDIA WOULD SUPPORT THE PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, ON SEPTEMBER 2 THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARY, SHANKAR, CALLED IN THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SAY THAT HE AND FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. SPECIFICALLY HE ASKED WHAT HAD

BEEN THE REACTION OF THE FRONT-LINE COUNTRIES TO IT. SHANKAR WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE LAW AND ORDER ISSUE AND THE ROLE OF THE UN FORCE. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER REPLIED THAT NYERERE SHOULD BE PLEASED, BUT HE WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE OTHERS. HE GAVE SHANKAR A COPY OF THE STATEMENT ON THE LAW AND ORDER ISSUE. SHANKAR SAID THE GOI WOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT (REPORTED BELOW); THE PM WOULD WRITE TO KAUNDA AND NYERERE IN TERMS STRONGER THAN WERE POSSIBLE IN A PUBLIC COMMUNICATION; THE GOI WOULD CALL IN THE HIGH COMMISSIONERS OF ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM; AND THE GOI WOULD INSTRUCT THE INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE BRITISH PROPOSAL.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 2 STATEMENT OF THE GOI ON RHODESIA: "(THE GOI IS) COMMITTED TO MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE IN THEIR STRUGGLE ... THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA INFORMED OF THE RECENT ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT OF THE RHODESIAN IMPASSE. AN INITIAL STUDY OF THE PROPOSALS SUGGESTS THAT THERE ARE MANY POSITIVE ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD ENSURE SURRENDER OF POWER BY THE ILLEGAL REGIME AND A RESUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DURING THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION... THE DIFFICULTIES OF MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASIZED. IT WILL HAVE TO BE ENSURED THAT THE RHODESIAN ARMY OF THE ILLEGAL SMITH REGIME WOULD BE EF-
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PAGE 03 NEW DE 12463 040531Z

FECTIVELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY REPLACED BY ARMED FORCES WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZIMBABWIAN PEOPLE. IN CONSULTATION WITH FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY OF THE FRONTLINE STATES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ARE CONSIDERING THE PROPOSALS...IN ORDER THAT AN EXPEDITIOUS AND EFFECTIVE TRANSFER OF MAJORITY RULE CAN BE BROUGHT ABOUT..."
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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